AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed outermost backside and bodyside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing;

a first skin adherent facing layer directly secured only to the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer and surrounding the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the first facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing; and

a second ~~perforated,~~ facing layer directly ~~secured~~ bonded to and coextensive with the proximal surface of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the second facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing and being generally co-planar with the proximal surface of the first facing layer, a periphery of the second facing layer being contiguous with a periphery of the first

facing layer, the second facing layer defining a grid pattern of through extending apertures arranged across the second facing layer and non-apertured regions surrounding the apertures;

wherein the bodyside surface of the wound dressing consists the proximal surfaces of the first and second facing layers;

wherein the second facing layer is composed of a skin adherent hydrophobic silicone gel compound, the thickness of the non-apertured regions consisting the silicone gel compound.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer is substantially parallel with the distal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections, each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent core.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer is sufficiently porous so as not to occlude moisture transmission through the backing layer.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first facing layer ~~of the backing layer~~ has greater skin adherence properties than the second facing layer.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the peripheral edges of the absorbent core have a bevel extending downwardly and inwardly towards a central axis thereof from the distal surface to the proximal surface thereof.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside and backside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a continuous skin adherent facing layer composed of a skin adherent hydrophobic silicone gel compound and directly ~~secured~~ bonded to both the proximal surfaces of the absorbent core and the border portion of the backing layer, the facing layer defining a grid pattern of through extending apertures only along the portion thereof bounded by the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, and a plurality of non-apertured regions surrounding the apertures arranged across the facing layer, the facing layer defining the entirety of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing;

wherein the apertures of the facing layer are formed irrespective of the proximal surface of the absorbent core;

wherein the thickness of the non-apertured regions consists the silicone gel compound.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside and backside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

a polymeric foam based absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a continuous skin adherent facing layer directly ~~secured~~ bonded to both the proximal surfaces of the absorbent core and the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer, the facing layer defining a grid pattern of through extending apertures ~~along an apertured portion thereof~~ located adjacent to the distal surface of the absorbent core and the grid pattern being bounded by the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the portion of the facing layer corresponding to the border portion of the backing layer having a generally smooth surface, the facing layer defining the entirety of the bodyside of the wound dressing;

wherein the facing layer is a hydrophobic silicone gel compound, a plurality of non-apertured regions of the facing layer surrounding the apertures and consisting the silicone gel compound ~~having an uninterrupted thickness~~;

wherein the apertures of the facing layer are formed irrespective of the proximal surface of the absorbent core.